Uttaranchal with a total Government of India share of Rs.132.36 lakh for a period of three years and an amount of Rs. 38.61 lakh was released during 2001-02.

Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had also sanctioned a Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly Areas on pilot basis to be implemented through State Designated Agencies nominated by the respective State Governments. The projects included all required intervention including development of mushroom depending on the needs of the district. Under the scheme women farmers are also eligible to become beneficiaries. That Department had released Rs. 178.80 lakh to the Designated Agency in Uttaranchal during 2001-02.

Assistance to Orissa for Natural Calamities

4664. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been perennial loss of life and property during floods, drought and other types of natural calamities in Orissa;

(b) if so, what guidance or assistance has been provided so far, by the Centre to the State to foresee, forewarn and guide the public and to control recurrence of such incidents; and

(c) how much additional financial assistance of funds have been allocated over and above the normal allocation, for the purpose to the State, during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Natural calamities in Orissa do cause damage to life and property of varying magnitude depending upon the intensity of the calamity.

(b) The primary responsibility for taking necessary action is that of the State Government. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government with financial and logistic support.

(c) In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), assistance from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) amounting to Rs. 4 crore during 1997-98, from NFCR amounting to Rs. 828.15 crore during 1999-2000, from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) amounting to Rs. 35 crore during 2000-01 and from NCCF amounting to Rs. 114.62 crore during 2001-02, have been released to Orissa in the wake of natural calamities.

Encouraging Coarse Grains

†4665. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Amar Ujaala (Meerut)", dated the 20th April, 2002 under the caption, "Paschimi Uttar Pradesh Mein Dhaan-Ganna Upjane par Ankush Lage";

(b) whether 1000 litres of water is consumed for producing one kilogram of sugar;

(c) whether cultivation of Arhar, Gram, Maize, Jawar and Millet crops, *in lieu* of Paddy and sugarcane crops, would be encouraged which would need less quantity of water and would also yield more benefits to the farmers;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In view of the need for diversification in agriculture, Government would like to encourage more coverage of area under pulses in which the country is deficit. Moreover, cultivation of these

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.